

The

INTERCHANGE

Monthly Newsletter for State Employees Prepared by State Employees



HoosierRx Announces Greater Prescription Drug Savings

Indiana seniors can now save even more on the cost of their prescription drugs by using the State of Indiana's prescription drug program for seniors, HoosierRx.

Beginning June 1, 2004, seniors who use HoosierRx will receive a 75 percent discount on the cost of medications, up from 50 percent. In addition, eligible seniors can now receive up to \$1,200 in prescription drug discounts.

HoosierRx also will coordinate with the new Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Cards, allowing seniors to use both the HoosierRx and Medicare drug benefits. This will mean up to an additional \$1,200 in Medicare savings to almost every HoosierRx recipient.

HoosierRx currently helps make medications more affordable for more than 18,500 seniors across the State of Indiana, an increase of 7,000 over the last year.

With Hoosier Rx, seniors receive an immediate discount on prescriptions through the easy-to-use HoosierRx Drug Card. When a senior uses the card, it informs the pharmacist that the person is eligible for the discount, now 75 percent.

Last month, income limits for the program were raised, making it possible for more seniors to enroll in the program. The limits are \$1,068 a month for single or widowed Hoosiers and \$1,426 a month combined income for married applicants.

The state's goal is to enroll 30,000 seniors by June 2005. Seniors can sign up for the HoosierRx Drug Card by calling toll-free to request an application at **1-866-267-4679**, or printing one from the Web site at www.IN.gov/HoosierRx. Seniors can also pick up applications at their local pharmacy.

To be eligible for the HoosierRx program, a senior must be 65 or older; be an Indiana resident; not have prescription drug coverage through an insurance plan or the state's Medicaid program; and receive a monthly income that does not exceed \$1,068 for a single person and \$1,426 for a married couple.

Health Care Costs

You've heard that health care costs are going up. And you may have experienced it personally through higher premiums, copayments and deductibles. But did you know on average, for every dollar you spend on health care, your employer pays five? And that consumers' share of costs have actually decreased over the past 40 years, from 49% to 14%?

Health insurance is one of the top benefits offered by employers. With premiums ranging from \$3,810.12 for single coverage to \$12,818.52 for family coverage, can you imagine having to pay for health insurance yourself? Or worse, being one of the nearly 44 million Americans that are uninsured, without financial protection against mishaps and illness in the future? The peace of mind that health insurance brings is priceless. But this **peace of mind comes at a cost.** What's health care costing

you? It may seem to cost you only \$5.00 to go to the doctor. But after you pay your \$5.00, who picks up the rest of the cost of the \$100 physician visit?

We all do – the doctor may cover some of the cost through their agreement with the insurance company, the insurance company pays the rest. And with increased cost of medical services, your employer may see an increase in rates in the following year, which in turn may increase your premium, co-payment, or deductible. It's important to get services when you need it – that's why you have insurance. But it's also important to be a wise consumer – know what services cost, get care at the appropriate time and place, and actively live a healthy lifestyle. When it comes to the cost of health care, your choices make a difference.

Your Friends and Loved Ones Deserve a Breathe of Fresh Air

Many of your friends and loved ones carpool, go to work and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant—wouldn't you like to know they're breathing clean air in each of these environments? As a state employee you enjoy a smoke free workplace environment every day; however, many Hoosiers are exposed to secondhand smoke in public places, the community and workplace.

Secondhand smoke claims the lives of 53,000 nonsmokers each year in the United States. Of these deaths, 2,200 are attributed to lung cancer caused by exposure to secondhand smoke in public settings, including the workplace.

Indiana communities are working hard to improve the quality of air Hoosiers breathe in public places. Through aggressive community education programs and an increase in local smoke free policies, communities across the state are breathing cleaner air.

Studies prove that smoke free community environments help to create safe and healthful settings for children, adults and seniors. Community business owners and employers also benefit from smoke free policies through reduced healthcare costs, lowered building maintenance fees and extended use of office equipment, carpets and furniture.

Health and economics both support the policy for communities to go smoke free. It is known that secondhand smoke contains

over 4,000 compounds, more than 50 carcinogens and many more irritants and toxins. Exposure to this dangerous air takes place in the home, public places, work sites and vehicles. Smoke free communities and public buildings improve the quality of air—saving Hoosier lives and money.

Benefits of a Smoke Free Community

- Smoke free settings help create safe and healthful environments.
- Smoke free community policies decrease residents' vulnerability to smoking-related illnesses.
- Residents are not exposed to secondhand smoke and will not be exposed to it in public places.
- Local business owners increase profitability as a result of decreased employee health costs.
- Community parks and public grounds require less exterior maintenance due to cigarette-related littering.

A partnership between the Indiana State Personnel Department (ISPD) and the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency (ITPC) provides additional programs and resources to help state employees quit smoking. As a result of this ongoing partnership, facts about tobacco use and its effects on Indiana state employees appear monthly in *The Interchange*.

For more information, or if you or a loved one needs help quitting smoking, call 1-866-515-5433 or visit www.WhiteLies.tv.

Smoking Cessation Support Group

Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation in collaboration with the State Personnel Department now offers a smoking cessation support group!

The group will meet each Wednesday for an hour from 11:30 until 12:30 in the IGCS. Call Barb Knott at 317-233-3282 to register. ITPC will have a cessation trainer on hand to facilitate the initial meetings. Meetings are free and open to all state employees.

Where: Indiana Government Center - South
Conference Center or Training Center (see below)
Time: Every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
When: June 2, 9, and 30: Conference 12
June 16 and 23: Training Center 12

Future Sessions will be arranged based on active participation.

Special Employee Benefit Offer Brink's Home Security Save Over \$200.00

As a valued State Employee, you can take advantage of this special Brink's Home Security offer, including:

- **\$49.00 STANDARD INSTALLATION**
- **FREE 2ND KEYPAD**
- **\$25.00 TARGET GIFT CARD**
- **UP TO A 20% DISCOUNT ON HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE RATES**
- **MONTHLY MONITORING STARTING AT \$27.99**

Call 1-866-786-5790 now and tell the sales representative you want to take advantage of the Employee Benefits Program offer.

All current State Employee Discounts can be found at http://www.in.gov/jobs/special_projects/discount.html

Two FREE Concert Series this Summer at the Indiana History Center

Summer evenings are right around the corner and with those come free concerts at the Indiana History Center. This year, the Indiana Historical Society is pleased to announce the return of a summer tradition, Concerts on the Canal, and the addition of a new lunchtime concert series. Both concert series offer an abundance of music featuring local artists.

Concerts on the Canal

A popular tradition returns to the Indiana History Center with another season of Concerts on the Canal. Families and downtown workers alike can enjoy free concerts on Thursday evenings, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., June 3 through August 19 (except, on Thursday, July 1), on the Center's canal plaza at 450 W. Ohio Street. A new elevated stage and seating arrangement will provide better viewing this year for lawn and reserved seating. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, or guarantee your spot and reserve seating. Reserved tables for eight are available for \$30, or tables for four are \$20. IHS members will receive \$5 off the price of a table. Free seating is available on the east side of the canal. Pre-ordered boxed dinners are available from the Stardust Terrace Café; please call (317) 232-1882 for menu options and pricing or to reserve your table.

Schedule:

- June 3 *An Evening with Tad Robinson* – Featuring the blues and R & B sounds of recording artist Tad Robinson.
- June 10 *An Evening with Carrie Newcomer* – Featuring the acoustic folk-like style of Indiana native Carrie Newcomer. Sponsored by Gregory & Appel Insurance in collaboration with Storytelling Arts of Indiana.
- June 17 *Indy Jazz Fest Preview* – Featuring the IUPUI Jazz Ensemble, directed by Jack Gilfooy, legendary Indiana jazz artists. Sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance and presented by IU School of Music at IUPUI.
- June 24 *Latin Jazz and Percussion!* – Featuring the Monsalve-Perez Latin Jazz Project and the IUPUI Urban Drum Ensemble performing an evening of rhythm and jazz. Sponsored by Coldwell Banker Commercial Realty and presented by the IU School of Music at IUPUI.
- July 1 There will be no concert on July 1 due to the Independence Day concert on July 4 from 4:30 -9 p.m.
- July 4 *Independence Day Concert* – Featuring Dog Talk Kid's Show and the Circle City Sound barbershop chorus. Family activities will also be available. Sponsored by BKD, LLP.
- July 8 *Blueprintmusic* – Featuring a progressive acoustic mix of bluegrass, country and folk styles with soulful vocals, guitar, banjo, fiddle and mandolin.

- July 15 *Cathy Morris Brazilian Band* – Featuring jazz violinist Cathy Morris and her new eight-piece band with a retro classic Brazilian jazz/Bossa Nova sound. Sponsored by Gregory & Appel Insurance.
- July 22 *Cabaret on the Canal* – Featuring vocalists Brenda Williams, Shannon Forsell and Bob Motz and their popular classic cabaret-style show.
- July 29 *Irish Festival Preview* – featuring the unique high energy mix of traditional and contemporary Celtic folk music of Brigids Cross. Sponsored by Indy Irish Fest.
- Aug 5 *Mid Coast Swing Orchestra* – featuring swing, jazz and big band classics with vocalists. Sponsored by Gregory & Appel.
- Aug 12 *Special Songs and Special Friends* – Featuring R & B vocalist Mary Moss, joined by Jack Gilfooy and other musical friends. Sponsored by Coldwell Banker Commercial Realty and presented by the IU School of Music at IUPUI.
- Aug 19 *Blues Mix* – Featuring the old and new blues styles of guitarist David Morgan and harmonica player Allen Stratyner. Presented by the IU School of Music at IUPUI.

Lunchtime Concert Series, sponsored by Indy Parks

NEW this year! Friday lunchtime patrons to the Stardust Terrace Café will be treated to a FREE outdoor concert, sponsored by Indy Parks, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., June 4 - July 16.

Schedule:

- June 4 *Tad Robinson* – featuring blues and R & B.
- June 11 *Keep Em' Guessin'* – featuring barbershop quartet
- June 18 *Lee Jones Big Band* – featuring swing and jazz.
- June 25 *The Grace Quartet* – featuring a classical ensemble.
- July 9 *Jason Curry* – featuring progressive jazz
- July 16 *Jennie DeVoe* – featuring acoustic rock/pop.

Since 1830, the Indiana Historical Society has been Indiana's storyteller, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving, interpreting and disseminating Indiana history. The independent, nonprofit organization also publishes books and periodicals; sponsors teacher workshops; provides youth, adult and family programming; assists local historical groups throughout the state; and maintains one of the largest collections of material on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest. The Indiana Historical Society is one of the oldest and largest historical societies in the United States. The Society opened its headquarters, the Indiana History Center, in downtown Indianapolis in July 1999. (www.indianahistory.org)

TRAINING PROGRAMS

July 2004

Date	Time	Class	Cost
1	9:00 - 11:00	Record Keeping Guidelines for Occupational Illnesses and Injuries(OSHA)	Free
6	9:00 - 3:00	CLER/Managing People**	\$25/program*
7	9:00 - 12:00	CLER/Selection & Interviewing**	\$25/program*
7	1:00 - 4:00	CLER/Sexual Harassment for Managers**	\$25/program*
8	1:00 - 3:30	Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. "Retirement Planning for Women"	Free
13	9:00 - 4:00	CLER/Personnel Rules**	\$25/program*
14	9:00 - 4:00	CLER/Union Settlements**	\$25/program*
15	9:00 - 4:30	Situational Leadership**	\$50
20	9:00 - 3:30	CLER/Performance Appraisals**	\$25/program*
21	9:00 - 11:00	CLER/Administrative Investigations**	\$25/program*
21	12:00 - 4:00	CLER/Progressive Discipline**	\$25/program*
22	9:00 - 3:00	Developing an Affirmative Action Plan**	Free
27	9:00 - 4:00	CLER/ABC's of Discrimination**	\$25/program*
28	9:00 - 1:00	CLER/Family Medical Leave**	\$25/program*
29	9:00 - 12:00	Developing an Affirmative Action Plan for Veterans**	Free
29	1:00 - 4:00	Compensation Overview for HR Prof.**	Free

NOTE: All classes will be held in the State Training Center except where noted.

*The Comprehensive Labor & Employee Relations (CLER) program has a fee of \$25.00 for each participant.

The \$25.00 fee covers the 10 training sessions inclusive in the CLER program.

CLER participants must commit to attend all 10 training sessions.

**These classes are only offered to SUPERVISORS/MANAGERS AND/OR HUMAN RESOURCES PERSONNEL.

Classes that require a fee are noted. Obtain your supervisor's approval to attend.

For more information or to register, you will need to contact your agency training contact person (ATCP).

Please visit <http://www.in.gov/jobs/training&development/0homepag.htm> to check for calendar updates before registering.



PEOPLESOFT 8.81 IS COMING!

Are you ready to UPGRADE to a better PeopleSoft? Effective at the end of March, 2005, our current version of PeopleSoft loses technical support. With this in mind, the decision has been made to upgrade the way we manage our Human Resource information to PeopleSoft 8.81! What does this mean for our PeopleSoft users? With more user-friendly options and enhanced performance monitoring ability, 8.81 will serve you more efficiently than ever before!

Look for a link to a PeopleSoft tutorial on the sign-in page of PeopleSoft in the next couple of weeks. Reading the tutorial is highly recommended, as it will give you a head start on the upgrade process as well as more specific details on the changes to the system.

Reports on our progress will be communicated to you regularly through emails, the Interchange, and a dedicated website: <http://www.In.Gov/Jobs/Upgrade>, in order to keep you informed as we accomplish this goal together.

Happy Father's Day!



Artwork provided by Jerry Williams, State Personnel Department

The Interchange



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